



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**Communications Department**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, August 31, 2015

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**SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES FREEDOM TO READ  
DURING “BANNED BOOKS WEEK,” SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3**  
*This Year’s Theme Celebrates Young Adult Books More Frequently Challenged than Any Other*

**SAN DIEGO** – To help raise awareness regarding the censorship of books, the San Diego Public Library, in partnership with the [San Diego Costume Guild](#), presents the 4<sup>th</sup> annual ***All-Day Read-Aloud Read-a-thon*** on Friday, October 2, 2015 from 12 to 5 p.m. in the Garden Courtyard at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. The public is invited to read alongside librarians, volunteer and teen readers, and special guests from the Costume Guild, who will appear as costumed characters from many favorite books including Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland.

“It’s important to realize that not every book will be right for every reader,” says library director Misty Jones. “The freedom to choose for ourselves what we want to read is a hard-won right that we must not take for granted. Reading, speaking, thinking and expressing ourselves freely are core American values.”

Since 1982, Banned Books Week has been observed, sponsored by the American Library Association and endorsed by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress. Launched in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries, more than 11,300 books have been challenged since 1982. There were 311 challenges reported to the ALA in 2014, and many more go unreported. See the [10 most challenged titles](#) of 2014.

The ALA, along with other Banned Books Week co-sponsors, hosts an annual Virtual Read-Out where readers from around the world can participate by posting videos about the importance of the freedom to read on a dedicated [Banned Books Week Virtual Read-Out YouTube channel](#). For more information please visit ALA’s [Banned Books website](#).

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Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

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